



"Enriching Lives"

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**  
1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



*Mark A. Fajardo, M.D.*  
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

February 04, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

## ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

32 February 4, 2014

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

### **REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF ONE (1) LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPH/MASS SPECTROMETER/MASS SPECTROMETER**

#### **SUBJECT**

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (DMEC) is requesting approval to authorize the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the acquisition of one (1) Liquid Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer/Mass Spectrometer (LC/MS/MS) with an estimated cost of \$400,000.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

Authorize the Director of ISD, as the County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the acquisition of one (1) LC/MS/MS at an estimated cost of \$400,000.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This purchase exceeds the \$250,000 capital asset threshold established by your Board and requires your approval to move forward with the solicitation and acquisition process.

The DMEC's current LC/MS/MS instrumentation is over ten years old and has been out of manufacturing production for over five years. Parts are no longer manufactured for these products and service depends on the availability of refurbished parts. This circumstance results in significant delays required for the maintenance of the outdated LC/MS/MS instruments. A new LC/MS/MS is needed to permit the DMEC to keep up with an increasing decedent caseload.

The DMEC is finding that many recent drug-related deaths are a result of the ingestion of new and different types of drugs and substances that until recently were not commonly found in the County.

Bath salts, spices (synthetic cannabinoids), and hundreds of other designer drugs are now common in DMEC cases, and many Forensic Toxicology Laboratories do not have the means to keep up with them. LC/MS/MS is state-of-the-art instrumentation that will allow our laboratory to analyze for these and other drugs in DMEC cases. This instrumentation allows for the simultaneous analysis of multiple compounds with greater sensitivity, specificity, and throughput than other analytical techniques.

The acquisition of a new LC/MS/MS would allow the DMEC's laboratory to both maintain its current testing caseload, and expand its testing capabilities to include more tests, shorten existing run times, minimize the amount of samples consumed, and identify unknowns in samples.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions proposed support the County's Strategic Plan Goals:

#### **No. 1 Operational Effectiveness**

Maximize the effectiveness of the process, structure, and operations to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public service. This acquisition will minimize delays in laboratory testing as well as expand the DMEC's testing capabilities.

#### **Goal No. 3 Integrated Services Delivery**

Maximize opportunities to measurably improve client and community outcomes and leverage resources through the continuous integration of health, community, and public safety services. This acquisition will expand and maximize laboratory testing capabilities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The total estimated net County cost for the purchase of this LC/MS/MS is estimated to be \$400,000 and was approved in the DMEC's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Final Changes Budget Request.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On October 26, 2001, your Board adopted a policy whereby County departments must obtain Board approval to purchase equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting a requisition to ISD, the County's Purchasing Agent.

This Board letter has been reviewed by County Counsel.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

This is a commodity purchase under the statutory authority of ISD (the County's Purchasing Agent). The purchase will be requisitioned through, and accomplished by, ISD in accordance with the County's established purchasing policies and procedures.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended action will ensure the improvement and expansion of the DMECs laboratory testing capabilities.

**CONCLUSION**

When approved, the Executive office, Board of Supervisors is requested to return the signed and approved Board Letter to:

Silvia Gonzalez, Contracts Manager  
Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner  
1104 N. Mission Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Fajardo, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARK A. FAJARDO

Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

MAF/slg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel